

REMARKS

Claims 8 and 13-15 were presented for examination. All claims were rejected.

Claim 8 has been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) over Ramsey. Applicants traverse the rejection.

Claim 13 recites the step of applying hydraulic pressure to inject a portion of a fluid stream into an analysis system, e.g., a chromatography column. In contrast, Ramsey employs electrokinetic transport (electroosmotic flow) for sample manipulation and as a pumping mechanism for liquid chromatography (col. 7, 13-55). In particular, Ramsey uses electrokinetic injection (application of a potential difference across an analyte stream) to “break off” a plug for injection into a separation channel (col. 10, 15-35). Nowhere does Ramsey discuss or suggest the use of hydraulic pressure for fluid manipulation and thus, Ramsey fails to disclose expressly claimed elements.

Applicants urge that a *prima facie* case of obviousness, which requires that the prior art teach or suggest all the claim limitations and the claimed invention as a whole must have been obvious, has not been made and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to claims 13-15.

CONCLUSION

In view of the argument above, Applicants urge that rejection of claims 13-15 under 35 USC §103(a) has been overcome and requests reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donald A. Nissen
Registration No. 44,261
Sandia National Laboratories
P. O. Box 969, MS 9031
Livermore, CA 94551-0969
Telephone (925) 443-7535

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For Applicant: Paul